

REPORT TO THE LESIGLATURE
Pursuant to P.A. 331 of 2006
Section 904 (1, 2)
Medical Services Transportation

The Department of Corrections continuously monitors Medical transportation to assure appropriateness. The vast majority of medical off-sites are appropriate and medically justified since they provide planned access to services for serious medical needs that have been identified by physicians but are beyond the scope of on-site service capabilities. Off-hours Emergency Care Runs are part of this monitoring process which has resulted in several initiatives that have brought about reductions in these visits.

The Department has implemented a physician assistant on-call system at a number of its facilities to provide off hours on-site care rather than transporting a prisoner offsite on nightshifts, week-ends, or holidays. A 24 hour Medical Practitioner at the Duane L. Waters Emergency Room with immediate access to the Departmental Electronic Medical Record is available for video and telephone consultation to all facilities to further help reduce these runs. The Department has also examined operations at the Jackson Medical Complex to determine the best use of its resources and reduce any unnecessary transportation.

The Department is also working to expand sites of off-site provider care so that prisoners need only be transported to a nearby off-site facility for access to hospital and specialty care services rather than having to be transported to Jackson to receive it.